PROCEDURE RELATING TO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET AND VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

President : Before we proceed to the general discussion of the budget, I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members to the general rules and procedure which have to be observed in the discussion and debates in this House on the budget.

As you are already aware, the debate on the budget will begin today with a general discussion, followed by the voting of Demands for Grants from Monday. The maximum of four days allowed under Rule 74 of the Legislative Rules has been allotted for the latter. The Demands will be discussed in the order in which they appear in the printed list placed in your hands. The Demands under I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income, III—Education and VII—Public Works may each be discussed for half a day, and not more than one hour will be allotted for each of the remaining Demands.

The procedure in calculating the time for the voting of demands will be the one adopted in previous years. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. of which the first hour is available for questions and answers and another hour (1 to 2 P. M.) will be the lunch interval. The remaining four hours will be reckoned as a full day and two hours as half a day. If the time taken up for questions and answers is less than an hour, the remaining time will also be available to the House for the voting of demands, but such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any one demand, and will only enable the House to reach more demands.

Honourable members of the Council are of course aware that they should discuss each demand as a whole and vote upon it as a whole without moving for the reduction of any grant or of any item in a grant. To enable the discussion of each demand in the Council, it is not necessary that the members should send in any specific motion, and the Council will have the right to assent or refuse its assent to any demand when it is put to the House.

During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a good number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debates.

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Before I conclude, I wish to make a statement regarding the publication of the proceedings of the Council. Those of you who had been members of the last Council are no doubt aware that printed copies of the proceedings of one meeting are issued only sometime after the meetings are over. This delay can be avoided if the members would kindly co-operate with the Secretary in enabling him to send to the Press the final edition of the speeches with the utmost possible expedition. Typed copies of the speeches made by each member at a meeting will be made available to him on the morning of the day after the meeting, and the speeches may be returned to the Secretary, with the corrections, if any, within the course of the day. This will enable the final edition of the proceedings of each day's meeting being issued on the third day.

FIXING THE DATE OF ELECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

I also wish to announce that this House will elect one representative to the Public Accounts Committee and another for the Finance Committee, for the next financial year, on Thursday, the 12th instant, after the proceedings of the day are over.

The elections will be conducted in the same way as in previous years and they will be presided over by one of the Panel or Chairmen.

The House will now proceed to the general discussion of the budget.

Mr. M. S. Anirudhan: Sir, I do not find my way to congratulate the Financial Secretary for the Budget statements he has laid before us. Reading between the lines of these statements one cannot help feeling that he regards the prospect with considerable uneasiness.

The Budget estimates for the next year have been prepared on the expectation of a total revenue of Rs 249·48 lakhs and the programme of expenditure chargeable to revenue have been fixed at Rs 246 lakhs, leaving a small surplus of Rs 2·80 lakhs. The receipts from Capital Expenditure are estimated at Rs 4·01 lakhs and the Expenditure on capital side including productive and non-productive schemes at Rs 86·6 lakhs. The amount estimated to be written off in the account of the Travancore Sugars is Rs 1·58 lakhs. That is to say we will have to draw from our surplus fund Rs 34·29 lakhs to meet the capital expenditure; and thereby the Government Account balance will be reduced from Rs 74·29 lakhs to Rs 40·32 lakhs.

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